



TESTIMONY

Submitted by Anellie Reed
Administrator, All Pointe Home Care

Human Services Public Hearing

February 14, 2023

S.B. 412 (COMM) AN ACT INCREASING MEDICAID RATES FOR COMPLEX CARE NURSING SERVICES.

Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrist and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee, My name is Anellie Reed, Administrator of All Pointe HomeCare, a CT-licensed and Medicare accredited home health agency that offer skilled nursing, home health aide, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and social work services for patients in the home. We are best known for our commitment to caring for our most vulnerable patients in our community- those receiving Complex Care Nursing. The typical population of people we take care of are children and adults with tracheostomies, ventilator dependent patients with other co-morbidities such as seizure disorders, alteration in nutrition requiring gastrostomy feedings, non-verbal, non-ambulatory with numerous medications and medical treatments. These patients are ICU level patients who are being cared for in the home.

I am writing today in support of S.B. 412: An Act Increasing the Medicaid Rate for Complex Care Nursing Services.

There is currently a 21% disparity in the reimbursement rate between Children and Adults. It is shocking and incomprehensible that adults are not given the same consideration when it comes to the care they need. Why should adults be less deserving of quality home health care, specifically complex care nursing, than their younger counterparts? The complexities of caring for these individuals just grows as they get older. As the body ages, so do other vital organs. These individuals become more difficult to take care of and the likelihood of complications increase. Ensuring that they have qualified caregivers in the home decrease the risk of re-hospitalization, saving the State of Connecticut thousands of dollars in healthcare costs. In fact it's about a \$7000 per day difference.

Agencies such as ours are struggling to find qualified caregivers to take care of these very complex individuals. We simply can't compete with institution wages which draws nurses in that direction. Bill S.B. 412 seeks to amend the Medicaid state plan to (1) increase rates of Medicaid reimbursement for complex care nursing services provided to a Medicaid beneficiary in such beneficiary's home to a level commensurate with Medicaid rates of reimbursement for such nursing services provided in skilled nursing facilities, and (2) eliminate any differential in rates of Medicaid reimbursement for such nursing services based on the age of the patient.

An increase in rates would allow the agency to offer more competitive wages, thereby drawing nurses into this field of nursing. Other states recognize the value that programs such as ours bring to the state's bottom dollar and have instituted rate variations that address the additional costs to the agency such as overtime pay, holiday pay, weekend pay, and shift differential rates.

I respectfully ask that you support this bill and help us continue to provide the care that these patients need and deserve.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

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